

A. atrogularis (42 eggs measured): average 37×28.3 ; max. 38.8×27.5 , 36.5×29.7 ; min. 35×27.3 , 36.9×27.1 .

The Museum has no authentic eggs of *A. mandellii*. Baker had a clutch of four eggs (B. M. reg. no. 1952. 11. 40) sent to him by Macdonald 'with remains of a skin which shows beyond doubt that this is a Hill Partridge either of this or a very closely allied race.'. This indicates that Baker was not certain of the identification, and while *A. mandellii* is closest to *A. rufogularis* in body size the four eggs would be large even for *A. torqueola*, measuring 44.2×34.7 , 44.2×35 , 42.6×33 , 44.8×34.6 .

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY),
CROMWELL ROAD,
LONDON S.W. 7,
September 2, 1966.

C. J. O. HARRISON
S. A. PARKER

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5. THE EGG-LAYING OF THE KOEL, *EUDYNAMYS SCOLOPACEA* (LINNAEUS)

In 1962 Dr. Sálím Ali, while going through the manuscript of my House Crow paper (Lamba 1963) commented regarding parasitization by the Koel: 'Is the koel's egg laid at any particular stage of the crow's clutch, i.e. after the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th egg of the crow? Ever in a newly completed empty nest?' At that time I was unable to deal with the points raised as I had not paid attention to this particular aspect during my studies on the nidification of the House Crow.

After my transfer to Poona in June 1964, I was able to pick up the threads of my studies on the breeding habits of the Koel, *Eudynamys scolopacea* (Linnaeus), in and around Poona. After making careful observations on scores of nests of *Corvus splendens* Vieillot and *Corvus macrorhynchos* Wagler, (the two species in whose nests the Koel normally lays) over a period of three breeding seasons during 1964-66, I find myself in a position to throw a little light on the subject.

In twenty-one nests of *C. splendens* in which a Koel managed to lay during the course of the present study, sixteen times she laid her first egg after the crow had laid her first, thrice after the crow had laid two, and twice after the crow had laid three of her eggs. In all the three nests of *C. macrorhynchos*, the Koel laid after the first egg had been deposited by the crow.

The maximum number of Koel eggs found in a single crow's nest was observed to be three, though previous workers sometimes came across as many as seven (Jacob 1915), eleven (Abdulali 1931), and thirteen (Baker 1934).

I have not, so far, come across an instance of a Koel's egg being laid in a newly completed but empty crow's nest, although as many as two (Cardew in Hume 1890: 396) and eleven (Abdulali 1931) Koel's eggs and none of the crow's have been observed in a crow's nest in the past. I shall be extremely grateful to any reader who would be kind enough to inform me if he comes across a Koel's egg in a freshly constructed but empty crow's nest.

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POONA-5,
July 27, 1966.

B. S. LAMBA

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6. OCCURRENCE OF THE BROWN FLYCATCHER (*MUSCICAPA LATIROSTRIS* RAFFLES) IN THE GIR FOREST

In March this year while bird watching at Sasan, Gir Sanctuary, in the company of Yuvaraj Shri Shivraj Kumar of Jasdan, we saw a brown and inconspicuous bird which was identified as a Brown Flycatcher by the Yuvaraj. The previous Monsoon had been very poor and almost all the Nullahs were bone-dry. Most of the birds seen by us, including the Brown Flycatcher, were concentrated around